

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 27, 29, 30, 32, 33, 43, 45, 52, 53, 57 and 76-86, and amend Claims 69 and 71. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. through 68. (Canceled)
69. (Currently amended) A method of ~~transiently~~ **permanently** upregulating heart rate in a mammal by introducing at least one fetal or embryonic cardiomyocyte transfected or transduced with at least one gene that upregulates heart rate, said gene selected from the group consisting of: β_2 AR, β_1 AR and $G_{\alpha s}$.
70. (Previously presented) A method of upregulating heart rate in a mammal by introducing a construct comprising at least one gene selected from the group consisting of: β_2 AR, β_1 AR and $G_{\alpha s}$, wherein said construct is suitable for localized stable gene expression in mammalian cardiac atrial tissue, and wherein said construct is introduced by direct myocardial injection or endocardiac transfection or transduction.
71. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 70 wherein the ~~molecularly-mediated cardiac pacemaker construct~~ comprises an inducible promoter.
72. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein the construct is introduced into the sinoatrial node region of a mammalian heart.
73. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein the method further comprises *in vivo* administration of an adrenergic agonist.

74. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 73, wherein the adrenergic agonist is isoproterenol.
75. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 70, wherein the gene is selected from the group consisting of: a β_2 AR gene, β_1 AR gene, and G_{as} gene.
76. through 86. (Canceled)